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NEWS RELEASE

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ATTORNEYS GENERAL ANNOUNCES IDAHO DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL WINNER OF ANNUAL AWARD

COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO --- The National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG) announced Wednesday that Idaho Deputy Attorney General Brett DeLange had received its 2006 annual Laurie Loveland Award for advancing the work of state Attorneys General on tobacco-related issues.

DeLange received the award during NAAG's 2006 Annual Summer Meeting, held June 27-30 in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho at the Coeur d'Alene Resort, where more than 300 participants, including more than 30 Attorneys General and their key staff, gathered to discuss a number of legal issues, including perspectives on social networking, innovations in law enforcement, spyware and approaches to prosecution, public corruption and homeland security.

"Brett DeLange has earned national recognition and the respect of his peers across the country for countless hours spent on encouraging tobacco companies to join the MSA in order to maximize the public health benefits of the agreement," said Idaho Attorney General Lawrence Wasden, co-chair of NAAG's Tobacco Committee. "To preserve the integrity of the MSA, Brett also worked with NAAG to encourage as many states as possible to adopt legislation to close a loophole allowing companies to avoid certain provisions of the MSA. His hard work on these complex issues will continue to yield benefits to the citizens of Idaho for many years to come."

“Brett DeLange has truly excelled as a spokesman for the states in very difficult negotiations with tobacco companies,” said Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller, co-chair of NAAG’s Tobacco Committee. “He is an accomplished and skilled attorney who is truly devoted to public service.”

DeLange was nominated and chosen from a pool of Attorney General staff members from across the country for his outstanding legal work. DeLange became involved in tobacco work in 1997, with the investigation of claims that Philip Morris, RJR Reynolds, Brown & Williamson and Lorillard tobacco companies engaged in acts and practices that were in violation of the law.

He later became Idaho’s lead in-house counsel in tobacco litigation, as well as the state’s representative to various multistate meetings leading up to the 1998 landmark tobacco Master Settlement Agreement (MSA), which imposed public health restrictions on the advertising, promotion and marketing of cigarettes by tobacco companies.

The Laurie Loveland award is presented in honor of Laurie Loveland, Solicitor General for former North Dakota Attorney General Heidi Heitkamp. Laurie, who died at the age of 43 on April 18, 2002, was well known for her long tenure as a key member of the tobacco negotiating team. She continued to help Attorney General offices after she moved to the firm of Ness Motley in Providence, Rhode Island. This special award is presented at the Association’s summer meeting to an individual within an Attorney General’s office who has helped to advance the work of Attorneys General on tobacco-related issues and who embodies the creativity, perseverance, dedication and commitment of Laurie.

The National Association of Attorneys General was founded in 1907 to help Attorneys General fulfill the responsibilities of their offices and to assist in the delivery of high quality legal services to the states and territorial jurisdictions, NAAG fosters interstate cooperation on legal and law enforcement issues, conducts policy research and analysis of issues, and facilitates communication between the states’ chief legal officers and all levels of government.

The Association’s members are the Attorneys General of the 50 states and the chief legal officers of the District of Columbia, the Commonwealths of Puerto Rico (Secretary of Justice) and the Northern Mariana Islands, and the territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the Virgin Islands. The U.S. Attorney General is an honorary member.

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